

Message Text

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FOR HARTMAN/SONNENFELDT IN SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT LENINGRAD 731 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

CAIRO MOSCOW TEL AVIV 19 MAY 75.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LENINGRAD 0731

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XF, UR, US

SUBJ: LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST'S REMARKS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS
AND MIDDLE EAST

REF: LENINGRAD

730 NOTAL; LENINGRAD 0729 NOTAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: US-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE SAID TO BE
DOING WELL ENOUGH IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE VIETNAM EVENTS.
BUT THE US IS SAID TO HAVE SUFFERED GREAT SETBACKS
IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST.
END SUMMARY.

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2. AZNANIYE (KNOWLDEGE) SOCIET PROPAGANDIST COMMENTED

ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS AS PART OF HIS PREPARED REMARKS
AT A SUNDAY, MAY 18, REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.
PROPAGANDIST WAS LECTURE CIRCUIT PRO MIKHAIL DMITRIYEVICH
SOLOV'YEV. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS ON
US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND MIDDLE EAST.

3. SOVIET UNION SUPPORTED ONE SIDE AND US THE OTHER
IN VIETNAMESE STRUGGLE. NOW THAT WAR HAS ENDED, RELATIONS
CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. CURRENT EXAMPLES ARE
STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS; WIDENING OF CONTACTS,
EG EXCHANGE OF NAVAL SHIP VISITS WAS VERY IMPORTANT
AND SHOWED MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP; CULTURAL TIES, EG
MAY 22 OPENING OF METROPOLITAN MUSEUM EXHIBIT IN
LENINGRAD AND SOVIET EXHIBIT FROM HERMITAGE MUSEUM IN US;
AND BUSINESS AND TRADE. GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH KISSINGER
IN VIENNA WILL BE IMPORTANT. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER,
AMERICAN PRESS SEEKING TO PUT STORM CLOUDS OVER MEETING
BY SENSATIONALIZING GROMYKO'S REMARKS IN HIS SPEECH ON
OCCASION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY.

4. AS A SWISS PAPER RECENTLY OBSERVED, EVERYTHING HAS ITS
END AND AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY DID NOT GET WHAT IT
WANTED. INDOCHINA IS NOT ONLY AREA WHERE US HAS SUFFERED
GREAT SETBACKS. OTHERS ARE IN GREECE, TURKEY, CYPRUS,
AND FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. POWER
OF US IS DECREASING IN TERMS OF POLITICAL SUPREMACY,
ECONOMY, AND DEGREE OF TRUST--THIS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF
COMMENTARY IN US PRESS.

5. VICTORY IN INDOCHINA ALSO ILLUSTRATES ENTIRE COURSE
OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. CERTAIN CIRCLES IN
ISRAEL AND US SEEK TO OPPOSE REGULARIZATION OF AREA,
BUT ARAB SUCCESSES IN OCTOBER WAR, NEW CHARACTER OF
POLITICAL SITUATION, POWERFUL WEAPONS OF OIL AND MONEY,
AND FAILURE OF KISSINGER'S MISSION IN ME, ARE POINTING
TO CORRECTNESS OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. REGARDING
KISSINGER'S MISSION, IT HAD SEVERAL OBJECTIVES:
A) TO SHOW ARABS AND ENTIRE WORLD THAT KEY TO SOLUTION
IN ME LAY SOLELY WITH US, B) TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION
OF US IN ME, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ENERGY CRISIS;
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C) TO SLOW PROGRESSIVE TENDENCIES IN AREA; D) DIVIDING
ARAB STATES FROM ONE ANOTHER; AND E) TRYING TO WEAKEN
POSITION OF SOVIET UNION IN AREA. BUT NONE OF THESE AIMS
WAS ACHIEVED SINCE THE MISSION WAS A FAILURE.

NEUBERT

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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